



OCTOBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

The Group

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Hello everyone and welcome to some new members.

We again, filled the meeting room at the La Quinta Suites in Tacoma with the 19th annual Cross Connection Control Seminar. Other than some really bad traffic problems and many late arrivals, the meeting went off without a hitch. Here is an overview:

Chair Tim Cantwell opened the meeting and introduced the vendors. All of the vendors had an opportunity to give a quick description of their wares and services. Next, Scott Hemingway, the director of WETRC (Washington Environmental Training Resource Center) spoke a bit about improvements they are working on. WETRC has been in existence since the early 70's and have offered many classroom sessions of training in a wide variety of water/wastewater topics. Included in their training courses is Backflow Assembly Testing as well as Cross Connection training for system operators. Scott is excited to announce the construction of a new training facility in Auburn that will include a new class room and a new wet room for testing and training. We will all look forward to seeing that. Thanks for the update Scott!

Terri Notestine, the CCC Program Manager for the DOH gave an update on the reorganization of their office. The new director, Clark Halverson has surveyed some water systems and other affiliates to see where improvements could be made to the Office of Drinking Water. As a result they have created a new full time cross connection position opening which will include duties such as ASR audits, tech assistance, training presentation skills. They are seeking an experienced CCS, with at minimum a WDMII, and BAT cert preferred. This person needs to have good communication abilities and people skills. And.....you get to work very closely with Terri☺. The job closes 11-6-14. To apply: <http://careers.wa.gov/>.

She also spoke a bit of the Annual Summary Report, which every CCS loves. They are in the process of updating the website application. The goal is to improve and enhance the application and correct current defects. The new app will include increased reliability, effectiveness and data quality. New features: Enhanced security, better navigation, data validation, minor changes in some of the forms, but in general much likes the one we are used to. The new application could be ready as soon as next February, but Terri suspects probably not until 2016. Terri had more information regarding the use of our current CCC manuals, marijuana grow operations, retirement and succession planning for purveyors and distribution systems; inspection and cleaning of water storage facilities.

Deni Gray, Operator Certification Program Manager: She wanted folks to be aware of the H2Ops newsletter will no longer be delivered in email form but will be back in hardcopy and

mailed again every quarter. Deni is asking for ideas and topics that we would like to see explored and published in that document. The BATalk newsletter will still be going out to all BATs.

Certification renewals will be going out in November. If you need to update your address, etc. contact her. The Professional Growth Requirement period ends December 2015. The CCS Public List is available on line. If you would like to apply to be added to the list go to www.doh.wa.gov/ccspubliclist.

Deni hopes everyone knows that the new Operator Certification Rule was effective January of this year and strongly suggests that if you haven't read it to take a look. It affects both CCS's and BATs. Under the new rule, the State is better able to respond to complaints against CCSs and BATs. It is available on their website.

Types of complaint: Customer calls CCS and says I have a bill, but no one was here to do the testing? What should the CCS do?

Deni asks that even if you don't have proof of fraudulence, a drive-by or just bad judgment please call and discuss it with her. It may be that someone else has expressed concern with the same person, BAT or CCS. Most of all, if you have a person that you are concerned about, DOCUMENT, document, document. Develop a complaint process. By doing this, you cannot be accused of singling anyone out or "picking" on someone.

I have only hit some of the highlights of the presentations of the two ladies. Their complete PowerPoints including contacts and links to other topics are available on The Group website for you to check out. www.backflowgroup.org

Break & Door Prizes!!

Up next: Rachel Neville is the BAT Program Coordinator for Washington Certification Services. She talked about the new format for BAT certification testing that became effective January of this year. The exam is two-part; first you will need to pass the hands on practical part of the test and then you will qualify to take the written exam through the AMP Company. You have a three month window between passing the practical and taking the written exam. AMP has four new testing sites in the State; Auburn, Pasco, Spokane and Vancouver. You will receive immediate "pass or fail" on each exam.

Any questions; Get in contact with Rachel at www.wacertservices.org. The BAT Public List is also available there if you would like to sign up for that.

Our next speaker was Derrick Dennis from the Department of Health who is the Water Quality Unit Supervisor. This session provided updates on the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act,

which amended the allowable amount of lead in pipes, plumbing fixtures and fittings, including backflow assemblies that convey drinking water. He provided the latest guidance from EPA and DOH and how these changes have an impact on CCC related activities. To view the code, go to DOH publication number 331-473. His presentation and contact information is also available on the Group website.

The following session was presented by Dave Cantrell, who is the Chief Plumbing Inspector for King County. In his spare time, ha!, Dave often times wears the hat of being a liaison between the building officials or the Authority Having Jurisdiction and the CCS's representing the Water Purveyor. In this session he provided updates to the Uniform Plumbing Code for 2012, and lead free requirements. He touched on water reuse, and rainwater harvesting. Dave always has a plethora of really good, accurate information for water purveyors and CCS's. Once again, you can view his presentation in its entirety on the Group website.

Paul Schwartz from USC gave a talk relating to what is new at USC, the USC approval list and field test issues, as well as assembly diagnosis. Paul added much humor to his talk by showing slides of cross connections he noticed in his travels abroad. He would explain the cross connection is the photo, and you couldn't help but notice he was always in the middle of the frame holding his USC Manual of Cross-Connection Control with a silly smile. It was really funny, and interesting. Check our website for his presentation! If you weren't aware, there is a mobile site or app (depending on your definition) to check the approval list: www.usclist.com. It is very easy to use and convenient out in the field.

Break and Door Prizes!!

And then.....the infamous Jim Purzycki presents Lead Free: How did the Manufacturers Comply? With his ironical humor, Jim explains the processes of how new rules are created and implemented by government and manages to poke a little harmless fun at the same time. While he explains the rule, he points out what is clear and what in not. His presentation had pictures of many new and old assemblies, complete and broken down to see the internal working components. It is worth taking a look at.

Last, but not least, Randy Engle from XC-2 Software delivered a discussion regarding electronic entry and "how secure do you want it?" He raised the questions and gave ideas of how to allow access and ensure integrity of information. He spoke of ways to get your board or council to approve the additional outlay of fund for software, and how to get your testers on board.

Following are some pictures from the event:

RANDY ENGLE



RACHEL NEVILLE



PAUL SCHWARTZ-USC, SEAHAWKS 12TH MAN?



TREASURER JAMES SALTER & KIRSTEN WARD



CHAIR TIM, DOMINIC AND BOB-DOORPRIZES!!



VICE CHAIR TONY, MARY AND LINDA



DAVE CANTRELL



DERRICK DENNIS



**AND.....IN CLOSING WE HAVE
JAMES MOORS FROM KING
COUNTY WASTEWATER.**

MAY OUR PATHS NEVER CROSS

We had a great deal of excellent information provided by all of our speakers and vendors and we thank all of them for their time and support. Anyone that completed a CEU card should see that the credit of 0.6 CEUs has been applied to their Professional Growth Report at Washington Certification Services. If it is not there, please contact me. kcaldwell@redmond.gov

The next meeting will take place at Silver Lake Water and Sewer on November 19th at 10 AM. The address is 15205 41st Ave SE, Bothell, Wa 98012, and will be hosted by Casey Parks. If you need to contact him, he can be reached at cparks@slwsd.com or 425 750 9854

We will be nominating and electing new board members. Our Vice Chair Tony Peredo will step up, according to the by-laws, to be Chair for 2015. The positions available are Vice-chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. If you are interested in any of these positions or care to nominate someone, please attend the meeting and speak up. The voting in of new officers will take place at the same meeting.

We have two nominations already for the Vice-Chair position: Dale Baxmann from the University of Washington and Chris Sutton from Backflows Northwest.

Dennis McLaughlin has been nominated for the Treasurer.

No nominations for Secretary (It's really a lot of fun!!)

See you there!

Kathy Caldwell

Secretary